

HOUSE BILL 562

D3, D4

0lr0998

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2010

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – Surcharge on Divorce Petitions – Distribution to**
3 **the Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County**

4 **PG 423–10**

5 FOR the purpose of altering a certain surcharge on certain costs and charges in
6 certain civil cases; specifying a certain surcharge on divorce petitions filed in
7 Prince George's County; requiring a certain surcharge to be distributed to the
8 Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County; and generally relating to
9 surcharges on divorce petitions filed in Prince George's County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
12 Section 7–202
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

18 7–202.

19 (a) (1) The State Court Administrator shall determine the amount of all
20 court costs and charges for the circuit courts of the counties with the approval of the
21 Board of Public Works. The fees and charges shall be uniform throughout the State.

22 (2) The Comptroller of the State shall require clerks of court to collect
23 all fees required to be collected by law.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) The clerk may not charge the State, any county, municipality, or
2 Baltimore City any fee provided by this subtitle, unless the State, county,
3 municipality, or Baltimore City first gives its consent.

4 (c) The clerk is entitled to a reasonable fee for performing any other service
5 that is not enumerated in this subtitle or in §§ 3–601 through 3–603 of the Real
6 Property Article.

7 (d) The State Court Administrator, as part of the Administrator's
8 determination of the amount of court costs and charges in civil cases, shall assess a
9 surcharge that:

10 (1) (I) **[May] FOR ALL CIVIL CASES EXCEPT FOR DIVORCE**
11 **PETITIONS FILED IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MAY** not be more than \$25 per
12 case; and

13 **[(2)] (II)** Shall be deposited into the Maryland Legal Services
14 Corporation Fund established under § 11–402 of the Human Services Article.

15 **(2) FOR DIVORCE PETITIONS FILED IN PRINCE GEORGE'S**
16 **COUNTY, MAY NOT BE MORE THAN \$70 PER PETITION OF WHICH:**

17 **(I) NOT MORE THAN \$25 SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE**
18 **MARYLAND LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER §**
19 **11–402 OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ARTICLE; AND**

20 **(II) NOT MORE THAN \$45 SHALL BE PAID TO THE DIRECTOR**
21 **OF FINANCE OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, WHO SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE**
22 **PROCEEDS TO THE FAMILY CRISIS CENTER OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**
23 **EACH MONTH.**

24 (e) If a party in a proceeding feels aggrieved by any fee permitted under this
25 subtitle or by §§ 3–601 through 3–603 of the Real Property Article, the party may
26 request a judge of that circuit court to determine the reasonableness of the fee.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2010.